

R 1684 E

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TC: The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM: NEA - William M. Rountree
SUBJECT: Gifts for King Saud

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>Isbourn</i>	DATE <i>3/29/82</i>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE	
TS AUTH.	REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

Discussion:

Publicity about the gifts King Saud is bringing to the United States has focused attention on what the President will give the King.

We made recommendations in our memorandum of January 24 (Tab B) and these gifts are being prepared. These gifts are symbolic rather than extravagant. While we do not yet know what the King is bringing, we suspect his gifts may be both expensive and elaborate. We have asked Ambassador Wadsworth to stress to him that the exchange of elaborate gifts is not a part of our tradition, but we are not certain the King will fully accept this thought.

Suggestions will be made that we give the King a more elaborate gift, such as that in Ambassador Wadsworth's message of January 3 (Tab A). We do not believe that such a gift is necessary or feasible.

In the event the King's gift is of such a nature that some more elaborate response seems necessary, we suggest consideration of a gift of scholarships for Saudi Arabian students, with suitable public emphasis on the significance of this gift in relation to the friendship between the two countries. IES is prepared to make available five full year scholarships for a total value of approximately \$20,000.

We believe that an appropriate announcement of the President's personal gift, the desk set, and of the gift of scholarships would meet the needs of the occasion and would be in keeping with the American tradition. A ceremonial presentation might serve to further emphasize the importance we attach to this gift.

Recommendation:

That you discuss the above with the President on January 29.

Attachments:

1. Dhahran's telegram 315 (Tab A).
2. Memo to Secretary of January 24 (Tab B).

NEA:NE:DDNewsom:apg
1/29/57

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